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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

New Crisis on Cyprus May Be Developing

1. Recent events in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus contain the threat of a renewed crisis on Cyprus.
2. The continued instability in Greece is weakening Athens' already limited control over Makarios. Greece's preoccupation with its own political crisis is likely to be prolonged and will prohibit Athens from exerting much of a moderating influence on Nicosia. Thus the possibility is increased that the Greek Cypriots may take some actions offensive to Turkey, such as new constitutional changes or the importation of Soviet surface-to-air missiles. The shakiness of the Stephanopoulos government also greatly limits its ability to make any of the concessions necessary for successful negotiations with Ankara.
3. Rumors of Turkish plans to intervene in Cyprus have been circulating in Ankara. The new Turkish government which will not be formed until next week will probably spend some time exploring various approaches, and these rumors probably do not reflect any settled, official policy. They are, however, indicative of a Turkish feeling that should peaceful means continue to produce Greek Cypriot gains, force may be necessary.
4. Bilateral negotiations with Athens and UN discussions offer only a tenuous hope of a peaceful solution. It is likely that the General Assembly will adjourn without making progress toward a Cyprus solution, and that the Stephanopoulos government will be unable to enter meaningful negotiations. This paralysis will strengthen the interventionists in Ankara somewhat.

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5. Turkey would be unlikely to resort to force unless there were an outbreak of fighting on the island. The activities of General Grivas, commander of the Cypriot forces, are increasing the possibility of such an outbreak. Grivas is attempting to assert his independence of the Cypriot Government. He is trying to reduce Turkish Cypriot military capabilities and is increasing military pressure on the Turkish Cypriots. He may indeed hope that a renewal of violence might lead to Greek-Cypriot union. So far, however, his operations have been relatively minor.

6. There is still time and a variety of courses available to all parties to prevent a further deterioration in the situation. There is room for concern, however, that events are leading to a situation in which an eruption is more and more a possibility.

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